(iv) Indian Railways have got surplus manufacturing capacity in production units for manufacture of locomotives and coaches. IRCON is also the export arm of Indian Railways for the export of locomotives, coaches, etc. For export of locomotives and coaches, a close coordination between Railway Research Design and Standards Organisation, Indian Railways' manufacturing units and IRCON is required.

(v) IRCON, being a construction organisation, can keep only a small work force on permanent basis. In the existing scenario of stiff competition in the construction industry, both in domestic and international market, only a company, which is lean with respect to their fixed cadre, can sustain their profits. Presently the skills; for undertaking Rail related projects, are acquired by IRCON through personnel on deputation from the Railways. After disinvestments, it will not be possible to induct Railwaymen into IRCON. It will affect the competence of the organisation to carry out Rail related projects in India and abroad.

Disruption of Bangalore Mysore Rail Service

1158. SHRI K. B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated loss to the railways due to cancellation or disruption of rail services between Bangalore and Mysore during Cauvery river water agitation, in the months of September/October, 2002; and

(b) the estimated loss due to damage to rail line and rail engine by the agitators?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) The estimated loss to the Railways due to cancellation or disruption of Rail services between Bangalore and Mysore is Rs. 109.76 Lakhs.

(b) the estimated loss due to damage to Rail line and Rail engine by the agitators is Rs. 15.25 Lakhs.

Recruitments in NF Railway from Assam

1159. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal in the Ministry of Railways to solve the unemployment problem of Assam;

(b) the number of persons recruited in the NF Railway during the last three years in G.r.-III and Gr.-IV posts; and

(c) how many of them were from Assam?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Number of persons recruited during the last three years in NF Railway:—

Group 'C'	Group 'D'
1319	1848

(c) The position of recruits on the basis of domicile is not maintained. As such this information is not available.

Decrease in Budgetary support for Rail Projects

†1160. SHRI LAJPAT RAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that as per the status-paper on Indian Railways, not only the budgetary support for the Ministry has decreased during the past Five Year Plans, over the few decades, but debts against the Ministry have also increased and it has become almost difficult to start new projects and complete the old ones, within the stipulated period; and

(b) if so, what is Government's stand in this matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The percentage of Budgetary Support has declined gradually since the Rolling Plans of 1978-80. The percentage of Budgetary Support was as high as 75% during V Five Year Plan and the Rolling Plans of 1978-90 and this came down to 23% during the VIII Five Year Plan. However, it may be noted that, with regard to Budgetary Support, this trend was slightly corrected during IX Five Year Plan period when the percentage level has increased to 34% (inclusive of contribution to the Special Railway Safety Fund). A request has already been made to increase the level of Budgetary Support.

Since Capital from general exchequer and internal resources have not been sufficient to fully meet the plan requirements, Railways have been forced to resort to Market Borrowings through the Indian Railway Finance Corporation, set up as a borrowing agency on behalf of the Railways. The dependence on Market Borrowings has, however, put a heavy financial burden on the Railways

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.